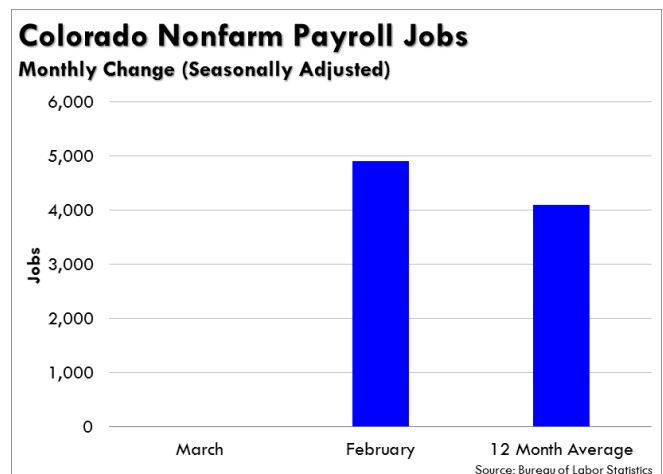
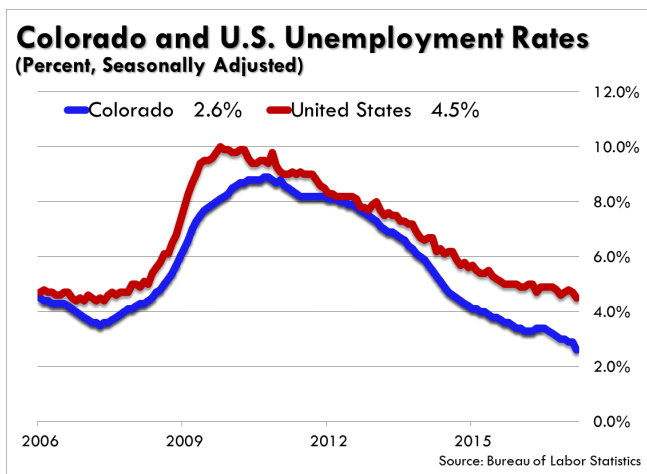


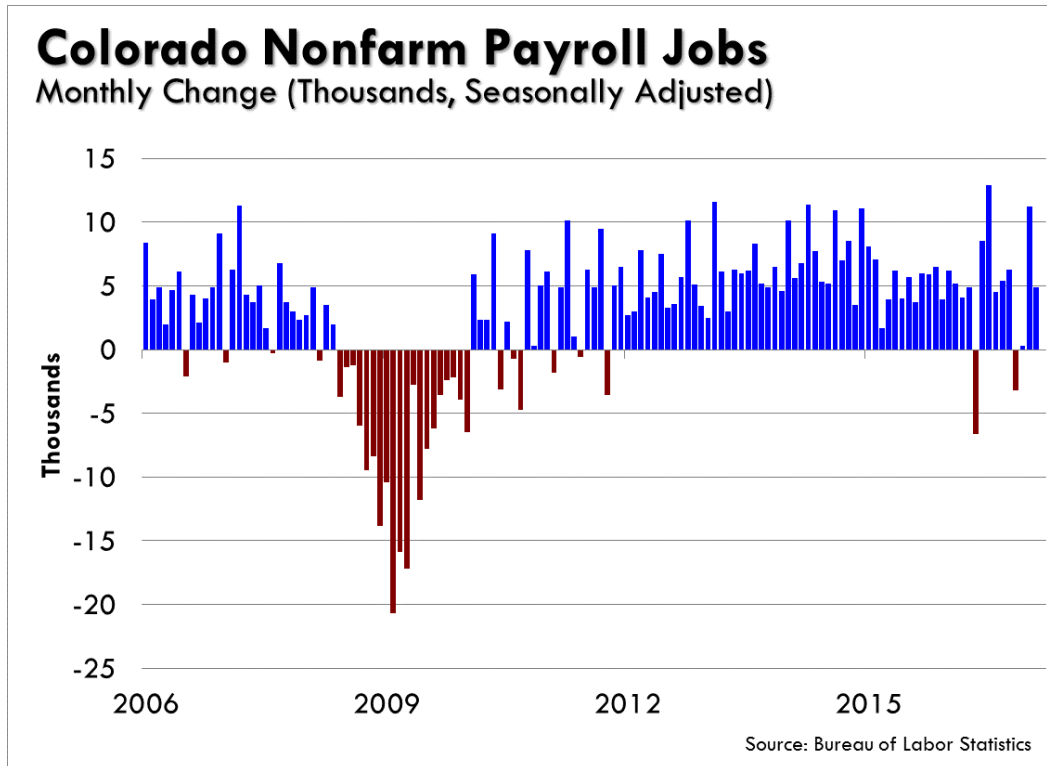


April 23, 2017

## Summary

- **Colorado had zero job gains or losses and the unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage point to 2.6 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Colorado added 49,100 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point from 3.3 percent.
- **In March, Colorado's private sector added 100 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 45,300 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Coloradans fell by 9,005 in March**, and over the past year 79,535 Coloradans found jobs.
- Colorado's **labor force participation rate increased to 67 percent** from 66.8 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.1 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





## **Colorado Payroll Employment**

Colorado was unchanged. on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Colorado added 4,900 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Colorado increased by 49,100, or 1.90 percent. Colorado nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

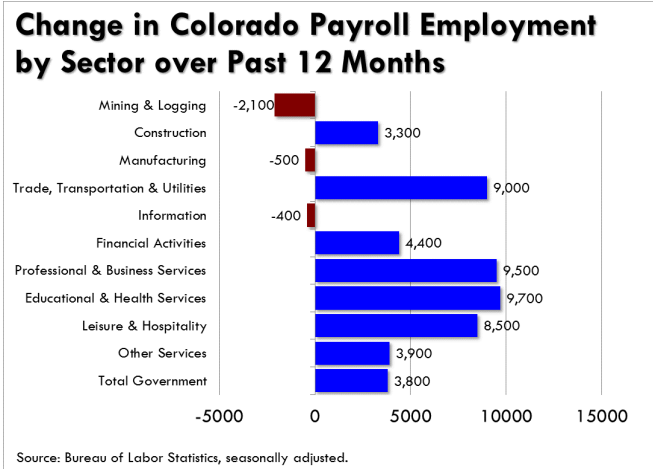
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Colorado ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Colorado's private-sector added 100 jobs, or 0.00 percent. The private-sector in Colorado added 7,700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Colorado increased by 45,300, or 2.10 percent. Colorado private-sector payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Colorado ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Leisure & Hospitality (+2,200) and Financial Activities (+1,400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-3,300) and Professional & Business Services (-2,100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+9,700) and Professional & Business Services (+9,500). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-2,100) and Manufacturing (-500).



## Colorado Labor Force Statistics

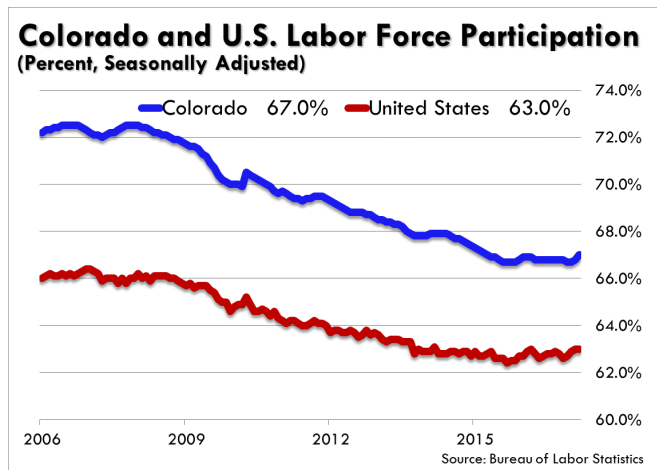
### *Labor Force Participation*

The labor force participation rate in Colorado rose to 67.0 percent in March from 66.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 have a higher labor force participation rate than Colorado. The labor force participation rate in Colorado is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Colorado was 72.5 percent in January 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Colorado occurred in August 1998 when the labor force participation rate hit 74.5 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.7 percent in January 2017. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in June 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 66.4 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

### *Employment-to-Population Ratio*

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Colorado civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 65.2 percent in March from 64.9 percent the prior



month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Colorado. The employment-to-population ratio in Colorado is 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Colorado was 69.6 percent in October 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Colorado occurred in February 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in August 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in October 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 62.6 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

